



2019-01-17

Chanticleer | January 17, 2019

Jacksonville State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.jsu.edu/lib_ac_chanty

Recommended Citation

Jacksonville State University, "Chanticleer | January 17, 2019" (2019). *Chanticleer*. 1791.
https://digitalcommons.jsu.edu/lib_ac_chanty/1791

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Historical Newspapers at JSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chanticleer by an authorized administrator of JSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@jsu.edu.



CAMPUS

Open for business

New JSU Rec Center launches soft opening



JSU University Recreation

Workers put the finishing touches on JSU's new multimillion dollar Recreation and Fitness Center. The RFC was open to students for the first time on January 14.

Scott Young
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State University Student Recreation and Fitness Center is now open for business almost two years after the JSU Board of Trustee's approved its construction. The RFC launched a "soft opening" beginning Monday featuring limited hours, with the new facility open to students and the paying public between 5-7 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. throughout the week as the new venue is broken in.

The facility is scheduled to have a grand opening on January 28. Spanning over 100,000 square feet, the facility features recreational gymnasiums, a weight and fitness area, a wellness center, an elevated walking track, racquetball and basketball courts, a small leisure pool and whirlpool, a 40-foot indoor climbing wall, group exercise studios, and locker rooms. "It will establish a new gateway experience for campus visitors and make JSU more competitive for student recruitment and

see REC CENTER page 2

in ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



New Miss JSU reaches crowning Achievement *Page 4*

in VIEWPOINTS



The man behind the music *Page 3*

in SPORTS



Gamecocks head into Belmont game with milestones on the line *Page 7*

on CAMPUS

International House Presentation: Philippines Thursday, January 17, 11:00 a.m. International House

Come learn more about the Philippines from one of our JSU students!

JSU Basketball vs Belmont Thursday, January 17, 5:15, 7:15 p.m.

The JSU Women's and Men's Basketball teams take on OVC foe Belmont at Pete Mathews Coliseum beginning at 5:15. The Men go for their fifth straight win over the Bruins and try to keep their unblemished conference record.

STATE

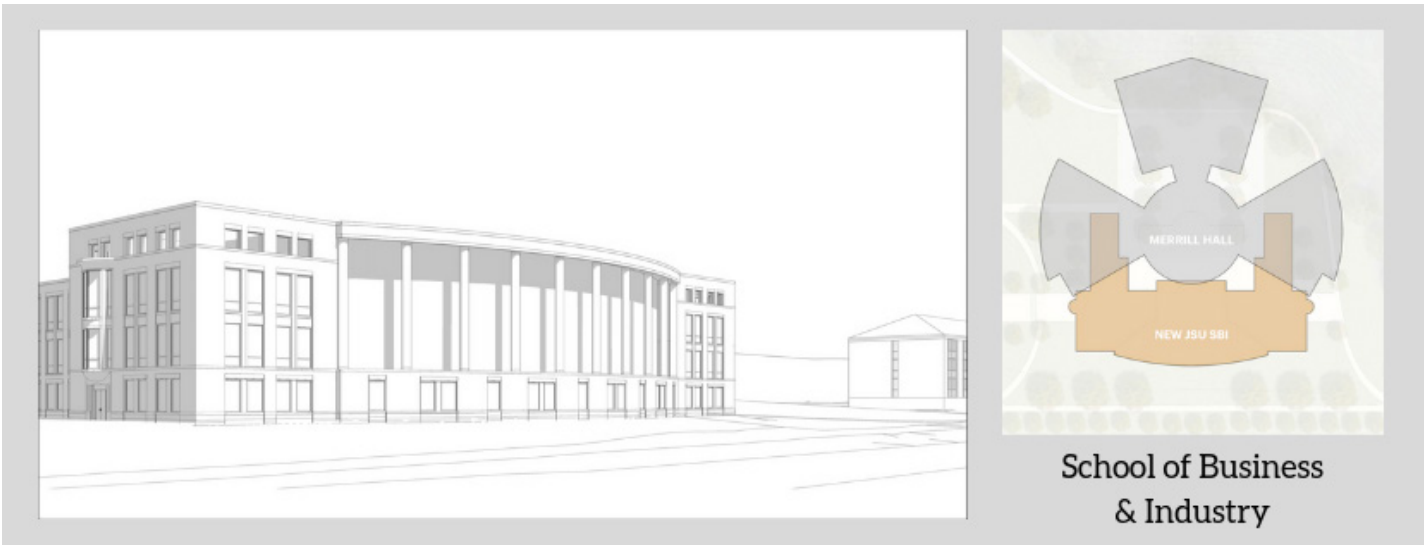
Rebuilding update: Ten months after the storm

The worst day in the 135-year history of JSU may also be its most beneficial. On March 19, 2018, an EF-3 tornado ripped through campus, causing millions of dollars in damages, including significant damage to 50 of the university's 70 buildings. Merrill Hall and the Alumni House were total losses. Other buildings – such as Mason Hall – are still undergoing major repairs. But the mantra of "JSU Strong" came to fruition. Not only did classes resume sooner than anyone expected, spring commencement was held in May allowing seniors to graduate on

time. Looking back, it's hard for David Thompson, JSU's director of Capital Planning and Facilities, to put those first few hours and days into fair perspective. "It was nothing short of an act of God," Thompson said. "It was not a flood from a building that had a broken water line or a fire in a building from a space heater. We had an F3 tornado come through the heart of our campus – there's no other way to describe it." But if the March tornado was an act of God, what's happened since is nothing short of miraculous. While the clatter and rumble of chainsaws and heavy loaders were still echoing across campus

and the City of Jacksonville, JSU officials were meeting with insurance claims adjusters and FEMA representatives, as well as those from the State of Alabama, all determined to get JSU up and running better than before. Now, ten months removed from the storm, JSU's campus has been the sight of an extraordinary recovery. And that's not just the opinion of those like Thompson and JSU President John Beehler. "Because of this disaster, we have many professionals from many different viewpoints tell us that what we've been able

see REBUILD page 2



Plans for a new School of Business & Industry building to be built on the former site of Merrill Hall were revealed Monday.

Photo Courtesy of JSU



News

REC CENTER from Page 1

retention,” said JSU President John Beehler following the Board of Trustees unanimous approval of the project in 2017.

The budget for the recreation center was set at around \$28 million and funded through a Public-Private Partnership (P3). The university entered into a ground lease with the JSU Foundation which transfers ownership of the recreational facility to the university after the ground lease ends.

Many students spoke out in opposition to project, arguing that the university did not make a concerted effort to listen to the opinions of students, and that students should have the option to opt out of the fee if they are not going to use the facility.

“Has anyone else noticed the \$190 JSU rec center fee and can anyone point me to the agreement I made to pay for a facility I won’t be using,” Allison Phillips, a nursing student, said on Facebook.

Beginning in the Spring 2019 semester, each student was charged an additional \$190 fee to cover expenses for the facility, which will be charged to their accounts each future semester. The

recreation center fee comes only one semester after the university increased undergraduate tuition by 5 percent to avoid a university budget deficit.

“A survey of 2,000 students was conducted asking if students would be willing to pay a fee for the rec center. The majority of the students marked yes and here we are,” said Noah Davis, who responded to Phillips’ post.

“Students and Student Government have been involved in the planning, fee decision, and decision-making process for the Recreation and Fitness Center since the project’s beginning in 2016,” says University Recreation Director Joanna Prociuk. “Input from thousands of students was collected via surveys, focus groups, and meetings.”

Students of JSU will have full access to the recreation center with a valid JSU student ID, though faculty, staff, alumni, and unaffiliated members must pay monthly for a membership. The facility is located next to Kenamer Hall on the southeast side of the campus. For more information on the recreation center, be sure to visit <http://www.jsu.edu/recsports/>.



Photos by Daniel Mayes, The Chanticleer

ABOVE:JSU Students test out the basketball courts at the new Recreation and Fitness Center during the soft opening on Monday.

BELOW: The new RFC features a rock-climbing wall.



REBUILD from Page 1

accomplish at JSU has been nothing short of a miracle,” Thompson said.

Total estimates for the repairs and rebuilding projects currently taking place on campus are \$70 million, though Thompson believes it’s a lot more than that. For that, FEMA is covering 75 percent of the costs, the State of Alabama 12.5 percent, and JSU is responsible for 12.5 percent.

While the tornado caused a variety of damage across campus, what it did to roofs was among the most extensive, so that was where much of the repairs were initially focused. As of early January, most of the roof work has been completed.

The buildings that require more work are Houston Cole Library, Stephenson Hall and Martin Hall, “which is pretty close to being finished,” Thompson said.

To understand how the recovery effort has progressed so quickly requires a crash course in insurance coverage. After a disaster, the insurance company sends in an adjuster to create a line-item estimate that clearly identifies the damages and the cost for fixing the damages. This includes everything from the cost of materials to the hiring of architects, contractors and engineers to design the work.

Typically, the work begins only after all the costs have been negotiated and agreed upon – but doing that would have meant that JSU would never have been able to resume fall classes. The State of Alabama’s Department of Finance and JSU’s insurance carrier understood this. When the insurance adjuster was sent to JSU to assess the damage, he was given the authority to determine when the work could begin, Thompson explained.

“Without having identified the damages to an individual building – never mind the totality – he let us get started,” Thompson said.

Another boost came from FEMA and its use of “mitigation,” which are the funds available for any material or products that were damaged as a result of the storm. These funds have allowed JSU to not only repair structural damage, but in many cases improve existing building.

In terms of roof repair and what FEMA has done, asphalt shingles are a good example. Most JSU roofs use the 30-year, architectural standard asphalt shingles. That’s what the tornado pulled up and tossed across parking lots and in trees.

“I could make T-shirts all day with all the catchphrases I hear,” Thompson said, “but the one I hear the most is, ‘Insurance is only responsible

for like, kind and quality’ – meaning insurance owes JSU for the 30-year asphalt shingle.”

But that’s not what FEMA does. Instead, FEMA provides a 40-year, impact-resistant asphalt shingle. Instead of it being fastened with two nails, it’s going to be fastened with six, and it’s going to be a different kind of nail. Instead of a 15-pound felt mat underneath the roof, FEMA pays for 30-pound felt.

“So anywhere you see a roof that’s been replaced, it’s basically on steroids because what we replaced it with is that much better than what was on there before the tornado,” Thompson said. “FEMA doesn’t ever want to have to come back to the same place for the same event again and that’s what the mitigation money is for. When you’re looking at 30 major roofing projects that FEMA participated in, and I don’t have the exact dollar amount in front of me, but it is significant.”

It’s a common theme to all the buildings that were damaged in the storm. When insurance paid for a new roof, FEMA came and made it better. That’s what has happened on every single building.

“It’s time for JSU to start saying out loud that we would have never, in 100 years, been able to do the amount of work we’re about to do,” Thompson said. “The vast majority of it is going to be done on the back of our insurance carrier.”

The best example of this is Merrill Hall, which was destroyed in the storm. Thompson expects to get \$15 to 20 million from insurance. FEMA has what is commonly known as the 50 percent rule. Basically, if the cost of improvements or the cost to repair the damage exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the building, it must be brought up to current standards.

FEMA approved \$38 million for Merrill Hall. Subtract the \$15-20 million that insurance will provide, FEMA gives the rest, minus JSU’s 12.5 percent on the dollar.

“That means if insurance does give us \$20 million, and FEMA is at \$38 million, that leaves \$18 million,” Thompson said, his fingers stabbing at a nearby calculator, “then 12.5 percent of that is \$2.25 million to get a brand new School of Business building worth \$38 million. That’s real. That has already happened.”

Demolition of Merrill Hall is set to begin in February. The university has drafted renderings of what the new building will look like – a more modern structure that honors the tradition of the original design – with a tentative opening date of January 2021.

Another example is Mason Hall. The tornado came through, ripped the roof off and tore all the HVAC units out of the walls. There was severe water damage inside the building all totaling “in the neighborhood” of \$3 to \$4 million, though Thompson is cautious, saying that these numbers are not exact.

Repair bids came in at \$6.2 million. Insurance will cover 20 percent of that. JSU has committed to completely gutting the entire facility – keeping only the structure and the roof-top HVAC units – and building a new Department of Music that will have all new elevators and wheelchair accessible restrooms, the performance center will have permanent fixed, seating and theatrical lighting, even a loading dock – everything better than it was before.

“We are going to completely modernize the Department of Music,” Thompson said. “For \$5 million, JSU is going to get an all new center for music. If we had to do that from scratch, it would be no less than \$20 million.”

Thompson has high hopes that Wallace Hall, which houses the School of Health Professions and Wellness, will qualify for FEMA’s 50 percent rule and will benefit much as Merrill Hall did.

“All things considered, maybe we spend \$10-15 million out of pocket,” Thompson said. “But we’re going to get probably \$200 to \$300 million worth of work. That just doesn’t happen.”

Finally, there’s Pete Mathews Coliseum, where JSU has committed to upgrade everything on the interior of the building, of which insurance will pay three-quarters. As with Mason Hall, Pete Mathews will get modernized with new locker rooms, training rooms, referee suites, a swimming pool and auxiliary gym. It’s also getting a new roof and HVAC units. The basketball portion of the building reopened and began hosting the Gamecocks again in December.

“Everything on the inside of that building will be brand new when we walk away at the end of January,” Thompson said. “For that, we’ll pay a little out of pocket – say, maybe \$3 million. Normally, a brand-new Pete Mathews Coliseum isn’t a penny less than \$40 million.”

While the university and its students, faculty and staff continue to recover from the traumatic spring break tornado, Thompson is in awe at the good that has come out of the catastrophe. He said, “We are getting amazing results out of a truly terrible thing.”



The man behind the music

Breanna Hill
News Editor

Starting January 4 and ending January 10 there was a round of spectacular performances put on by several JSU Gamecocks in the production of Peter Pan. Talent could be found in every aspect of the elegant recreation of the tale we all grew up hearing about time and time again.

There are several key elements that blend to form a successful production, one of the most compelling being centered on music. The musical component of any production is crucial—it can change the dynamic, and add so much to the storyline. The musical component draws out the emotion, and makes you realize just how deep and sincere moments truly are. The Peter Pan production, which took place at the Oxford Performing Arts Center, had every element of a successful musical locked into place right off the bat. It is often understood that great music calls for a great conductor. Jacksonville State’s very own Matt Davenport, a music education major, has proven this even more by conducting the musical aspect of the production.

Matt was originally just filling in as conductor at rehearsals while Dr. Benson was in Italy with the Marching Southerners. Benson ended up offering Davenport the opportunity to conduct the entire thing all by himself. When asked how the overall experience was working with the cast and crew, Davenport said, “The show was such a wonderful experience for me; rewarding and challenging in the best possible ways.”

How does one begin to appreciate music enough to dedicate so much time and energy into it? If you were able to peek into the life of any musical genius you would most likely be able to find out that they were taught by incredibly talented music directors, who not only taught them how to play instruments, but encouraged them as well. Matt continues to share how grateful he is for those musical opportunities that his high school band program had presented him.



Photo Credit: blog.cathkidston.com

Though music has always been an important part of Davenport’s life, it wasn’t his first idea when it came time to choose a major. Matt recalled always wanting to teach, and he had planned on being a history major—but that plan went out the window nearly instantly; music was the way to go.

The Peter Pan production allowed many gifted and talented people to share their art and talent with all who was fortunate enough to attend. Going to events such as this can cause you to come to the realization that the arts truly are a gift, an outlet, and even a way of life.

Make sure you keep an eye on the endless concerts that the talented musicians here at Jacksonville State put on throughout each semester.

Harper says JSU could have a tough home-court advantage, and there’s no reason it shouldn’t

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

“The crowd was great, and I can’t thank the students enough for showing up like they did. If they’ll keep coming back, and coming in those numbers, this could be a huge home-court advantage and one of the toughest home-courts in the league. That’s what it’s all about if you’re going to have a chance to play late in the year.”

That’s what JSU Head Basketball Coach Ray Harper said after Thursday night’s 69-62 win over Eastern Illinois was attended by a crowd that probably made the athletic staff glad they got that last section of missing bleachers (a casualty of the March 19 Tornado) repaired in time.

The fact of the matter is, there’s no reason it shouldn’t be.

Talk to anyone who’s played college basketball, or really anyone who has ever even attended a game, and they’ll rave about how important the advantage of an energized, attentive crowd is.

Just take Senior Marlon Hunter’s comments after the game:

“Tonight was crazy, man. We fed off the crowd’s energy all night. They crowd just kept on lifting us, and we kept turning it up.”

Atmosphere matters in college basketball.

Sure, not every game will feature a halftime performance by unicycling bowl-flipper Red Panda. Not every game will include a \$200 reward for the campus

organization with the most attendance.

But JSU can have a great atmosphere inside Pete Mathews. JSU has enough students, and the Coliseum is a small enough venue, that there is no reason it shouldn’t be at least mostly full for each game.

Especially during conference play. Especially with students back on campus.

“The crowd was great. I think that’s the best crowd we’ve had since I’ve been here,” JSU’s Jason Burnell said after Thursday’s game.

“The thing is, people are going to come see you if you win, so we’ve just got to

keep winning.”

JSU is in the midst of unequivocally their best stretch of basketball since joining Division I. With an OVC Tournament win, NCAA Tournament appearance, a school record for single-season wins, and four-straight wins over the OVC’s historically best program in Belmont, Ray Harper and the Gamecocks have done their part in the last three years.

Now it’s time for students and JSU fans to keep up their end of the deal.

The Gamecocks go for five-straight over Belmont Thursday night. See you there, Gamecock nation.



Hollie Ivey/ The Chanticleer

Pete Mathews Coliseum was at near-capacity crowd on Thursday for the Gamecocks’ game against EIU, and there’s no reason it shouldn’t be packed every game.



Arts & Entertainment

CAMPUS

New Miss JSU reaches crowning achievement

Bethany Hunt
A&E Reporter

Last Friday, a new Miss JSU was crowned for 2019, following fierce competition between the six contestants competing for the title. Darby Angle was crowned Miss JSU 2019.

Angle is a junior from Dallas, Texas majoring in sports management. The platform she chose to support was “Precious as Rubies” which aims to help women who have experienced sexual violence on college campuses. In her opening statement as Miss Jacksonville State University on Instagram Angle stated, “I am absolutely over the moon for this incredible opportunity. Jacksonville State, I promise to represent you to the best of my ability. This year is about to be so life changing and eye opening and I cannot wait to get started.”

During the onstage question portion, we saw a glimpse of the contestants’ interview with the judges from earlier in the day. The subjects of the questions were varied, from current issues like the government shutdown to vaccination laws. Courtney Williams shared that she had lost a close friend to the flu and that influenced her opinion on laws regarding vaccinations. Williams also was also second runner up for the title. Taylor Snider was not only first runner up, but also won the swimsuit portion.

Talent ranged from a vocal and trumpet piece performed by Angelica Luna to a lively tap number to 9 to 5 by Dolly Parton which helped Angle win the talent



Photo courtesy of Grace Cockrell

Miss JSU 2019, Darby Angle (Left) is crowned by Miss JSU 2018 Lauren Reaves.

portion and the crown.

The pageant’s theme was “Legacy.” This theme was chosen by Miss JSU 2018, Miss Lauren Reaves, to tell the young woman who would be taking her place that she would be making an impact with this title. Reaves’ farewell was a heartfelt tribute to her reign which included her “Rising Star” Addison Claire and Reaves doing the “floss” dance together. Reaves also included a special thank you to her mother thanking her for being her “Miss America.” She will be returning to the Miss Alabama pageant in June as Miss Hamilton 2019. Miss Alabama 2000, Jana

Sanderson, was a magnificent emcee and helped elaborate on how hard Lauren has worked during her reign and how difficult it is to stand up on stage after the holidays in a swimsuit.

Miss Jacksonville State University is an official preliminary to the Miss Alabama Pageant for the Miss America Organization. Miss America is one of the leading scholarship organizations for women in the world. Miss JSU, 1st alternate, and 2nd alternate all received scholarships towards their pursuit of education at Jacksonville.

FILM REVIEW

Bird Box: don’t take off the blindfold

Breihan Dryden
A&E Writer

As a movie lover, I try not to go into films prepared to hate them. In fact, it’s quite the opposite, I try and find the best in all things (as you might have learned from the previous films covered here). Which leads us to *Bird Box*, which I went into with zero knowledge of its existence, outside of some interviews that I had read months earlier on a couple of the horror sites I frequent. With a premise that sounds vaguely interesting (think *The Happening* meets *A Quiet Place*, except not as entertaining) and a, uh, weird to say the least cast, I was happy to sit down and watch this with my fiancé on a rainy night. Ohhhhhhh boy, I hope you’re ready to read me ripping this movie a new one.

First off, let’s start with some positives. The acting in this film, for the most part, is pretty solid. Sandra Bullock is always a treat and is very believable in her role as the protective mama bear of her unborn child, John Malkovich is wonderful in his usual John Malkovich-y way, and Trevante Rhodes is a pretty good backbone character to the story. Another thing this film has going for it is that it is beautiful. My hat goes off to cinematographer Salvatore Totino for giving us some truly delicious looking shots. Finally, the music in this film was handled by Trent Reznor (of *Nine Inch Nails* fame) and his frequent collaborator Atticus Ross and it is simply wonderful. Moody, chaotic, and pulsing are all wonderful descriptors of this quality soundtrack. Now, onto the bad stuff, of which

there is plenty.

Oh man, where to begin. I guess we can start with all of the characters that I didn’t mention above. They’re all useless. They either serve the purpose of padding out a body count, to spout exposition (about things we the viewer and the characters themselves already know about), or are there simply to exist. Heck, two of the most inconsequential characters steal the group’s car and bounce. It’s treated as some big loss for the group, not because they took the car, but because how could Machine Gun Kelly and random Latina cop lady just leave?!?!? Oh yeah, MGK is in this film and he’s about as good as you’d expect him to be. While we’re on the topic of characters, this film has a really bad habit of not informing you who anyone is. Occasionally, you’ll learn a character’s name, but for the most part you’ll be saying “Why did they lock up John Malkovich?” or “Man, they should have listened to the black guy that isn’t the comic relief from *Get Out*.” It comes across as lazy writing and it doesn’t help the viewer get invested into the well-being of these people at all. Speaking of lazy, let’s talk about the lack of the elephant in the room and by that, I mean the lack of any physical creature(s) in the film. Now, I get it. Often times, what you imagine the creature in one of these monster movies (people need to stop pretending like this is anything BUT a creature feature) looking like is generally better than what it turns out to be. But you know what? At least they have a creature. Even the films that this so heavily takes inspiration from (*The Happening* and *A Quiet Place*) both show their creatures. Granted, in *The*

Happening the monsters are plants, but still, it’s something. In *Bird Box*, we get nothing, nada, zilch. The reason given in the movie is that “iT’s ToO sPoOpY tO sHoW yOu”, but in reality, it’s more than likely just that filmmakers were too lazy to come up with something creative. I’m a simple man. You don’t have to give me a full blown reveal of the monster, but a leg here, a wing there, maybe a some talons. I’m just saying, it would help get me invested into the story and well-being of these characters if they were actually faced with some kind of physical threat. And yes, before people jump down my throat, I know that there was a creature designed for the film and that it was really bad looking so it was scrapped, but that’s not an excuse.

Bird Box is a tough one, because it had potential. I know it’s based on a book that is probably far better, but what works in a novel doesn’t always translate well to film. As it stands, *Bird Box* is a movie that feels like a TV pilot, has zero tension because of how the film is structured (the film constantly jumps back and forth from “present day” to “five years later”), only has three characters that are worth anything of substance, and is a genuine mess of a film. If you’re in the mood for a solid Netflix original that oozes with atmosphere and tension so thick you could cut it with a knife, do yourself a favor and skip this and go check out *Apostle*. I guarantee that you that it is a far better use of your two hours.

“Bird Box” gets 2 Golden Taylors out of 10

GAME REVIEW

Red Dead Redemption II is the game that transcends video games

Taylor Mitchell
A&E Editor

Red Dead Redemption 2 is the 2018 prequel to the 2010 game *Red Dead Redemption*. Both games were developed by Rockstar Games, which is mostly known for their Grand Theft Auto series. Grand Theft Auto admittedly, has very little to do with this series. Instead of stories about crime, with hints of clever parody of American culture, this is a story about the death of the Wild West. It’s a very different story than one might expect from Rockstar, which makes it worth taking a look at.

The game is set in 1899, 12 years before the first game, though it primarily features a setting to the east of the first game. It is a region where modernity is fast approaching, but has yet to truly take over. Players take the role of Arthur Morgan, a member of the infamous Van Der Lind gang. This is the same gang that the first game’s protagonist, John Marston, belonged to during his outlaw days. Players get to see this period during this game. Arthur is the right hand man and protégé to the gang’s leader Dutch van der Lind (an antagonist from the first game). As the game opens, the gang is on the run after a job gone sour, lost in a snowstorm in the mountains. Players follow Arthur as he continues with his life of crime and the gangs fortunes continually spiral down the drain.

Probably the most interesting part of the story is how the unavoidable realities of the changing times slowly make charismatic outlaw-philosopher Dutch crack and fall down a path of violence and dogma. As Dutch falls, so does the fortunes of Arthur and the rest of the gang, and in the end you are left with the thought that maybe this was what Dutch, and possibly the world itself, always truly were to begin with. The first game was the story of the Old West’s death, this game is too, but it is also much more of a personal story about the death of the gang’s normal and preferred life. As the gang fractures, the game does a very good job of showing that these people’s entire lives are heading down the same road.

The gameplay is, in many ways, as expansive as the story. The game is filled with things to do that the player can either choose to deal with or not. Players can rob banks, trains and stagecoaches, or just go hunting or fishing. Like any good western, there is plenty of shooting and each gun feels unique. While there are several different guns in each category, the individual guns all handle differently, which means you get to pick what works



Courtesy of IMBD.com

for you. All of the thought and mechanics put into the horses in the game. As someone who grew up around horses, it’s wonderful to see all the thought put into it. They have different temperments and gaits, as well as more apparent health and stamina stats. Riding itself is also super enjoyable, easy to understand and easy to control. My 7 year old sister thinks it is the greatest game on the planet, despite riding horses being the only thing I let her be in the room for.

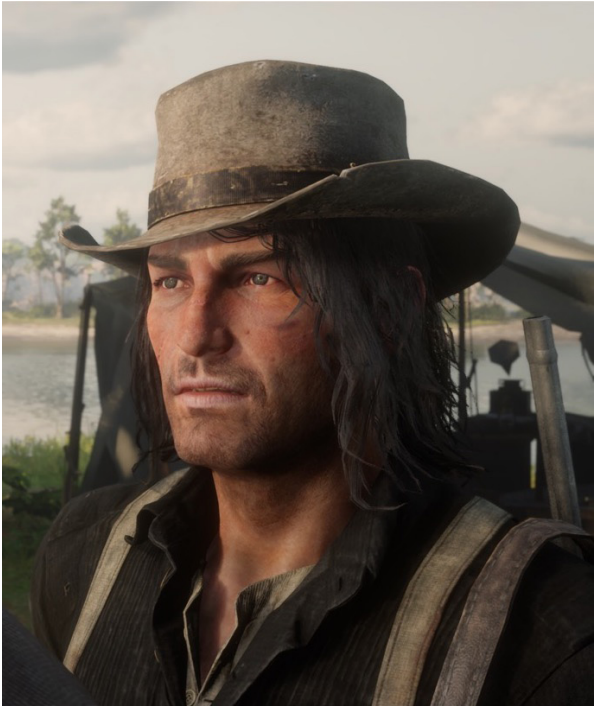
The true brilliance of the game comes from the setting. The world feels so alive, almost like it doesn’t require the player to exist at all. It feels like a world made to be a world, not just for the player to interact with. It also does a very good job of presenting the game as a Western. Everything works towards that and it is masterful how it does it. It really feels like a Clint Eastwood movie, or dime novel that you get to play. It is a wonderful thing to experience. The game just feels exactly like you think it should and that all just culminates in the best way possible.

One thing that cannot be overlooked with this game is the utter beauty of it. Every single pixel is rendered in the sharpest detail. Its honestly its the most stunning I have ever seen a game look. I reviewed this using an original launch Xbox One, so I fully admit my console didn’t do it justice. If you have a Playstation 4 Pro or Xbox One X, you owe it to yourself to pick this game up just so you can see how good games can look now. I normally don’t sweat hardware limitations but the development work it took to get it looking this good really makes it worth it in this case

This game is a masterpiece. It transcends its genre and even its medium. I realize I am not the first to say this, but I truly believe it. I have made the argument several times that videogames are art, and honestly I think this game is the newest evidence to this fact. So instead of basing my recommendation on any one element as I usually do, allow me to just say, play it. I don’t think you will be disappointed.



Courtesy of reddead.wikia.com



Left: Arthur Morgan (Roger Clark) Protagonist of Red Dead Redemption II
Right: John Marston (Rob Wiethoff) Protagonist of Red Dead Redemption



Study Break

Trivia Answers: November 29th Edition!

1. In the Harry Potter series, what is the name of Harry’s pet owl?

Answer: Hedwig

2. Which book was famously rejected by 12 publishers before finally being accepted by Bloomsbury?

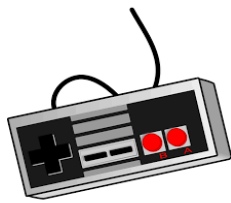
Answer: Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone

3. Who directed the movie “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban”?

Answer: Alfonso Cuarón

4. In what year was the first Harry Potter movie released?

Answer: 2001



Video Game Trivia:

1. What was the first console video game that allowed the game to be saved?

- A. The Legend of Zelda
- B. Advanced Dungeons & Dragons: Pool of Radiance.
- C. Base Wars - Cyber Stadium Series.
- D. Final Fantasy

2. Nintendo is a consumer electronics and video game company founded in what country?

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Germany
- D. Ireland

3. The first person shooter video game Doom was first released in what year?

- A. 1990
- B. 1996
- C. 1992
- D. 1993

4. In what year was the Nintendo 64 officially released?

- A. 1994
- B. 1991
- C. 1997
- D. 1996

Riddle of the week...



There is an island with exactly 201 residents, 100 with blue eyes, 100 with brown eyes, and the island leader (who has green eyes). To leave the island, one must know their own eye color. There are no reflective surfaces on the island and no one can communicate with each other other than the leader to the residents. No one on the island knows how many of each eye color there is. Everyone on the island is a perfect logician, meaning that if there is a solution they’ll find it. Every morning the leader gives anyone a chance to leave the island by guessing their eye color. One morning, the leader gathers all 200 residents to make an announcement, he says “at least 1 person on this island has blue eyes” How many people leave the island and in how many days after the announcement?

2018-19
JSU
Basketball
Upcoming
Schedule

Men

Vs. Belmont
Thursday
Jan. 17
7:15 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum

Vs. Tenn. Tech
Saturday
Jan. 19
7:00 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum

At Eastern
Kentucky
Thursday
Jan. 24
6:30 p.m.
Berea, KY.

At Morehead
St.
Saturday
Jan. 26
2:35 p.m.
Morehead, KY.

Vs. Murray St.
Thursday
Jan. 31
7:15 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum

Women

Vs. Belmont
Thursday
Jan. 17
5:15 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum

Vs. Tenn. Tech
Saturday
Jan. 19
5:00 p.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum

At Eastern
Kentucky
Thursday
Jan. 24
4:00 p.m.
Berea, KY.

At Morehead
St.
Saturday
Jan. 26
12:05 p.m.
Morehead, KY.

Vs. Murray St.
Thursday
Jan. 31
11:30 a.m.
Pete Mathews
Coliseum

Home
Games in
Bold

All times
Central

JSU MEN’S BASKETBALL

Gamecocks welcome OVC-favorite Belmont with milestones on the line

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

Ahead of the second matchup in just two weeks with preseason Ohio Valley Conference favorite Belmont, the Jacksonville State Men’s Basketball program enters the meat of their conference schedule with a heap of accomplishments already behind them. The Gamecocks took down the Bruins 84-74 in their first matchup on the road in Belmont’s Curb Events Center, and, just two weeks later, JSU welcomes the OVC-Power into Pete Mathews Coliseum Thursday night with several program milestones on the line:

Undefeated in OVC Play

The Gamecocks enter the game already riding their best start to their conference schedule since joining the league in 2003-04. Jacksonville State has claimed a victory in their first four OVC games, which is their best start in any conference since starting 6-0 in the Atlantic Sun in 1999-00. With a win, the Gamecocks would extend their program-best start and keep at least a share of first place in the Ohio Valley, as Murray State and Austin Peay also go into their respective games Thursday night with an unblemished conference record.

Division I Best Win Stretch

After falling to 0-3 to begin the season, the Gamecocks have rattled off 12 wins in their last 14 games, good enough for the best 14-game stretch in JSU’s Division I history, which dates back to



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Jason Burnell leads the Gamecocks in what has already been a successful season.

1995. The lone two losses came in close road games against March Madness regulars, as JSU fell 69-65 to Wichita State on December 12 and 74-72 to West Virginia on December 22. The Gamecocks have rattled off five wins in a row since the defeat at the hands of the Mountaineers, and another victory would give the Gamecocks their longest win streak since 2008-09.

Win Streak over Belmont

The Gamecocks have won four straight games over the class of the OVC in Belmont, dating back to the 69-65 JSU victory in the semifinals of the 2017 OVC tournament as the Gamecocks made their run into March Madness. Jacksonville State swept the

season series last year, and has a chance to accomplish that feat again this season with a victory on Thursday night after their road victory on January 3. That win was just the third home OVC defeat for Belmont since joining the league in 2012, with Jacksonville State accounting for two of those three. The Bruins are 50-3 in conference home games during that span.

Jacksonville State tip against Belmont is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. Thursday night at Pete Mathews Coliseum after the two Women’s programs matchup at 5:15. The game can be viewed online by subscribers of ESPN +, and Mike Parris will have the call on 91.9 WLJS and 97.9 WVOK.

JSU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Late struggles lead to 51-47 home loss

JACKSONVILLE – minutes. A dormant 1-for-17 shooting in the fourth quarter alone plagued JSU to just five points in the final frame as SIUE overcame a double-digit second-half deficit. Sophomore Taylor Hawks was the lone Gamecocks to reach double figures with 11 points. Senior Rayven Pearson finished with nine points, just missing her seventh double-double of the year after a team-high 12 rebounds. A three-pointer from Jessie Day that rattled in off the rim gave JSU a 15—8 advantage late in the opening period. The lead was five heading into the second quarter where SIUE slowly worked its way back to a 22-all tie with 4:45 remaining until halftime. After the Cougars briefly took a onr-point lead on three of

Nakiah Bell’s game-high 13 points, Hawks made a layup with 30 seconds to go to take a 26-25 lead into the locker room. A 6-0 run midway through the third handed JSU a 42-32 lead, but JSU would hit just one of its final 22 shots the remainder of the way as SIUE began to chip away at the margin. With 6:00 to play the Cougars regained the lead, 43-42, and soon had a three-point lead that would get erased by Yamia Johnson’s corner three that evened things up at 45 with 5:05 left in the period. Late free throws from Pearson pulled JSU back within two, but the Gamecocks came up short in the final possessions as SIUE secured the 51-47 win marking the first loss of the year by JSU after leading at halftime. JSU remains at home next week to host Belmont and Tennessee Tech.



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Destiney Elliot and the Gamecocks fell to SIUE 51-47 on Saturday.

JSU TRACK & FIELD

Rollins’ High Jump leads young Gamecock squad in opener

BIRMINGHAM – It was a new-look for the Jacksonville State track and field team in the season-opening Vulcan Invitation on Saturday, as nearly a dozen Gamecocks made their debuts for the red and white.

The opening meet of the year featured a mix of power programs from the Southeastern and Atlantic Coast Conferences, along with familiar mid-major foes in Austin Peay and Tennessee State.

The new faces for JSU included true freshmen Reagan Cook and Uriah James in the 200-meter run. Leandra Custodio, who just arrived at JSU from her South Africa home, ran a 1:01.57 in the 400-meter, while Briar Poytress debuted in the mile

run. Ahead of Poytress in the mile event was sophomore Jazmin Ortega who placed 17th with a time of 5:42.85. Roswell, Ga., native, Ashton Coats, made her Gamecock debut in the 60-meter hurdles.

In the field freshman Donna Dunkum competed in the high jump, an event where the Gamecocks had a strong team showing. Jahleah Harris took flight in the long jump and Adrian Rock made her first tosses in the shot put and weight throw competitions.

One of the top performances by a first-time Gamecock was freshman Tamaya Mitchell’s seventh-place finish in the triple jump at a mark of 10.46 meters.

Overall, junior Madison

Rollins led Jax State finishing fourth in high jump clearing 1.64 meters behind a couple of LSU Tigers that took first and second in the event. Teammates Erica Edwards and Briana Caudle reached 1.59 height to tie for sixth. Senior Brittany Cook also had a good start to the 2019 season with a seventh-place spot in the long jump at 5.33 meters.

On the track, junior Emily Sorrell placed seventh in the 800-meter run with a mark of 2:19.40, while junior Autumn Rich took 16th in the 3,000 meter event.

The Gamecocks return to the Magic City next Saturday for the Samford Invite.

JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

JSU RIFLE

Rifle opens 2019 with solid outing against The Citadel

JACKSONVILLE – The Jacksonville State rifle team opened the 2019 portion of the schedule with a win over The Citadel at the Gamecock Rifle Range.

The Gamecocks topped the Bulldogs by 97-point spread with an aggregate mark of 4666. The Citadel turned in a 4569. JSU tallied a 2348 in air rifle and tacked on a 2318 in smallbore.

Jax State was led by senior Mekenna Richardson, who combined for a final mark of 1177. Richardson was nearly perfect in air rifle with a 593. The Rhodesville, Maryland native added a 584 in smallbore. She claimed top honors in both regiments.

Senior David Sink followed Richardson with an 1172 overall score after posting a 591 in air rifle and a 581 in smallbore. Freshman Mackenzie Van Patten finished third overall with an 1164 aggregate score. Van Patten carded a 583 in air rifle and matched Sink in smallbore with a 581. Senior Trace Haynes and freshman Owen Goad rounded out the top five in the individual standings. Haynes tabulated an 1162, while Goad had his best showing so far this season with an 1153.

JSU will return to action on Saturday, January 19, hosting Ohio Valley Conference foe Murray State. It will be the first of two consecutive meetings with the Racers as the two squads square off in Murray, Kentucky on Saturday, January 26.

JSU Sportswire

JSU VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball welcomes transfer Hannah Marchand

JACKSONVILLE – The Jacksonville State volleyball team has welcomed its first new addition for the 2019 season with the arrival of transfer Hannah Marchand.

Marchand, a 5-foot-11 middle blocker joins head coach Todd Garvey’s program after spending her first two seasons at Jacksonville University. The Sturgis, Mich., native started all 29 matches for the Dolphins last season as a sophomore, leading JU with 78 blocks.

“We are thrilled to add a player of Hannah’s caliber to the roster,” said Garvey. “Hannah is extremely athletic. She is a former high jumper who is great jumping off one foot. She brings two years of experience as a staring middle hitter and is a really versatile player who can play both the middle blocker and right side



JSU Sportswire

hitter positions. We are really excited to have Hannah as a part of the program and think she will fit right in both on and off the court.”

Marchand finished 2018 third on the team with 219 kills, hitting .249 on the

year and recorded 24 aces. She had 10 matched with double-digit kills, including a career-high 20 at NJIT. She matched her career-high with seven blocks against Ohio Valley Conference member, UT Martin. She was a two-

time Atlantic Sun Conference Freshman of the Week in 2017. JSU’s newest Gamecock will see her first action for the Red and White in August as JSU plays host to an opening weekend tournament.

JSU Sportswire